

WEST NILE VIRUS TRANSMISSION CYCLE

MOSQUITOES

Some species of mosquitoes carry & amplify the virus. They transmit the virus when they bite to get a protein blood meal before laying eggs



Typical WNV transmission cycle

MAMMALS

Most species are not susceptible to illness, even if infected with West Nile virus

Occasionally WNV affects mammals bitten by mosquitoes



BIRDS

Infected mosquitoes bite birds & infect them. Some infected birds transmit the virus to other mosquitoes when bitten again. Birds of some species get ill; others do not show disease symptoms, although infected. Infected migrating birds carry the virus to new places.



MAMMALS ARE DEAD END HOSTS

The level of viremia in mammals is generally too low to transmit the infection back to mosquitoes